

The Great War—1336th Day

Time Favors
Allies, Says
Gen. MauriceEvery Day Enemy Is Held
Increases British Advan-
vantageFoe Wearing Down;
Transport CongestedBattle Not Over, but Re-
serves Are Expected to
Turn the Tide

LONDON, March 27.—There have been two critical moments thus far in the battle raging in France. Major General Frederick B. Maurice, chief director of military operations at the War Office, said in an interview today with The Associated Press.

"The first was on Saturday, when the enemy got across the Tortille River and nearly reached the line on the Somme," General Maurice declared. "The second was on Monday, when he took Courcellette, and a similar danger of breach was present."

"One remarkable feature of the whole battle has been the work of the Allied airmen," said General Maurice. "Last night we dropped twenty-two and one-half tons of bombs on enemy reserves around Peronne and Bapaume. During the day the low-flying machines operated constantly and almost without interference on the part of the enemy from the air. With their machine guns they inflicted heavy losses on the enemy and constantly interfered with his preparations."

Time Advantage Favors Allies
"The opposing forces on the whole front are as nearly equal as possible," the general said. "The enemy, being on the offensive, gets his reserves on the scene first. What we require is time to get up our forces to the right place. Every day the enemy is held is a tremendous advantage to us."

"The battle is far from over, and I would not like to say we are not likely to be faced with another crisis, but time is on our side. The enemy is getting further from his rail heads, and the area behind the line is getting more congested. His supply of men also is wearing down. Thus far the Germans have lost more than 100,000 men, throwing in fresh men from the rear echelons as fast as the front line is exhausted. Meanwhile the men carry full equipment and exist on iron rations. This process of handling troops is now growing difficult, and meanwhile Anglo-French reserves are getting nearer the battlefield."

"The situation today is less critical than it has been in the last few days."

Allied Reserves Coming Up
General Maurice laid out a map of the Western front on the table in his quarters while making his customary verbal statement today, a blue line representing the front as outlined in last night's communiqué, while a bright green line showed the line at 1 o'clock this afternoon.

The changes to-day included slight enemy advances along the Somme, both north and south of the river, and a similar enemy push farther south around Erches and l'Échelle St. Aurin. "During the night," continued General Maurice, "the enemy attacked just north of the Somme and drove us back to Marcony and Sully, but French troops arrived on the scene this morning and counter-attacked, regaining a considerable part of the ground and the Germans had taken. On the remainder of the front the line remains steady."

"For the time being the enemy is definitely checked north of the Somme. The fighting in this district has been very severe and the enemy troops are exhausted."

"North of Albert an attack may be expected momentarily, as German reserves have been seen massing."

"The enemy is now in Albert, while the British line holds the railway embankment on the western outskirts."

"South of the Somme attacks in the Roye and Noyon areas are expected to be renewed, but French reserves are approaching."

Canadian Guns
Do Heroic Work
In Great Battle

OTTAWA, March 27.—"Canadian railway construction troops, horse artillery and motor machine gun battalions were in the thick of the great struggle raging between the Scarpe and the Oise," according to a message from the official Canadian observer at the front in France, "even out to-night at the office of the Prime Minister. 'Our casualties were slight and our losses in material are not worth consideration.'

"All through the first day the guns of the Canadian Horse Artillery swept the enemy in the thick armor of the storm troops. Sometimes before they limbered up to take a new position they were being point blank on the Germans, mowing lines in each succeeding wave," said a Canadian officer. "Sometimes the attackers would divide and sweep by us, and we would find we were actually in front of our own infantry, but not for long did that sheer weight of human flesh stay in our rear."

"Fighting, sometimes outnumbered by ten to one, some Irish troops around us with bayonets and bombs came flinging back into the fray until the infantry line was again securely in front of us. These men were wonderful and never for a minute looked as if they could be beaten."

"As yet I cannot obtain exact details of what the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery suffered, but I hear that in spite of changing position seven or eight times, bringing horses inside the barrage and taking the guns out, only two of the Canadian batteries were lost or destroyed. At one time some Hun cavalry were behind them, but the tanks with the undamaged guns drove crashing through the small troop that tried to stop them. All the guns that fell into the enemy's hands were blown up before the crews left them."

"Heavy Canadian batteries are in action, but where they came from and how they got there is a marvel."

Nanking Plague Kills Fifteen

PEKING, March 21.—Fifteen deaths from the plague have occurred at Nanking, capital of the Province of Kiangsu.

Paris Looks Crisis in the Face
And Reflects Calm OptimismBoulevard Cafes Enjoying Normal Patronage and
Restaurants Are Crowded—People Forget Big Gun,
Except to Evince Greater War Spirit

By Wilbur Forrest

(Tribune Cable Service)

PARIS, March 27.—Despite the German onslaught, which is undoubtedly leading to the greatest military events in history, Paris is looking the situation straight in the face and reflects the strongest optimism.

The boulevard cafes are enjoying normal patronage, and the crowds are discussing the latest events calmly. The restaurants are crowded. Everybody is talking about this history in the making, but seldom is there a word of pessimism heard anywhere.

Big Gun Forgotten

The newspapers, playing up the battle news, have forgotten the German long-range gun, which enjoys only the briefest references. In fact, many writers announce that this gun stimulated the capital's morale by infusing a greater war spirit into the populace.

Following Clemenceau's policy of publishing the almost brutally frank daily communiqués, the people's confidence is firmer, for they are convinced that the government is working with open hands.

The lobby of the Chamber of Deputies, where the latest news arrives continuously, is the scene of animated

Nine Prisoners From
Teuton Raider ArriveU. S. Warship Brings Captives
to Pacific Port; Two
Are Women

A PACIFIC PORT, March 27.—Nine prisoners of war, two of them women, arrived here today aboard a United States warship, which had in tow the auxiliary schooner Alexander Agassiz

outfitted by the Germans as a raider. The Agassiz was captured a week ago off the coast of Mexico.

Government officials said they had information that seven Germans, who embarked on the Agassiz at Mazatlan, Mexico, had orders from the German command to seize any ship they could and then to proceed to the South Seas to raid commerce of the Allies.

Representatives of the government also said they had information indicating similar raiding parties were being organized in west coast Mexican ports, each designed to put to sea in a small craft with the hope of seizing a larger vessel to be used as a privateer.

One of the seven prisoners is Miss Maude Lechner, who, according to government agents, says she is the owner of the Agassiz. Authorities believe she had the vessel in Mexican waters for legitimate purposes and that the Germans imposed upon her confidence while taking advantage of her financial necessities.

The other prisoners are Cornelius Geertz and his wife, Frank Volpert, Richard Charles, Lewis Brandt, Charles Boston, Arthur Martens and Hendrik Koppala.

Stand Firm in Crisis,
Says Haig to British

LONDON, March 27.—Field Marshal Haig has issued the following special order of the day, dated March 23:

"To all ranks of the British army in France and Flanders: We are again at a crisis in the war. The enemy has collected on this front every available division and is aiming at the destruction of the British army. We have already inflicted on the enemy in the course of the last few days a very heavy loss, and the French are sending troops as quickly as possible to our support."

"I feel that every one in the army, fully realizing how much depends on the exertions and steadfastness of each one of us, will do his utmost to prevent the enemy from attaining his object."

France Asked Japan's
Aid in August, 1914

Mikado Replied His Action
Must Be Confined to
Orient

PARIS, March 27.—Intervention by Japan in the European War was solicited by France at the end of August, 1914, according to a detailed account by M. Bernard, the historian, as published today in the "Excelsior." Theophile Delcasse took charge of the Foreign Office on August 28. His first step was to draft a note to the Emperor of Japan, in his own hand. M. Bernard says that this note was communicated to the British Ambassador. The reply was that Japan's policy was entirely Oriental and that her army was not prepared for action outside that sphere.

M. Bernard denies, on the authority of M. Delcasse, a report which has been current for a long time that Japan demanded the cession of Indo-China to France as the price of her intervention.

Germans March Six
Nights to the Front

AMSTERDAM, March 27.—German troops going forward to the attack on the British front in France detained far behind the lines, even behind the Belgian frontier, according to the correspondent at the front of the "Kheinische Westfaelische Zeitung." These forces marched for six consecutive nights, no columns showing themselves on the roads in the daytime.

Kaiser Finds Job
For Another Son

LONDON, March 27.—Emperor William has appointed his fourth son, Prince August Wilhelm, prefect at Potsdam, to learn civil administration, says an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Amsterdam.

It is believed that this is a preliminary step to the prince's appointment to a vice-regal post in Lithuania or Courland.

Capital Awaits
News of Allied
Counter Drive

British Thrust May Be Sig-
nal for Expected
Offensive

Hit at Foe's Wedge
Reserves Believed in Position
for Blow on Both
Flanks

By C. W. Gilbert

WASHINGTON, March 27.—From the brief dispatch telling of the retaking by the British of Morlancourt and Chipilly and the advance to Proyart it was impossible to determine whether or not the main counter offensive of the Allies, news of which was expected here all day, had begun or not.

Washington based its expectation of a counter thrust upon the fact that the German advance had virtually stopped and upon the probability that all the German reserves had been thrown into the drive to produce the movement already accomplished.

What the British apparently have done is to strike the Germans directly at the apex of the wedge on both banks of the Somme. This counter blow may be merely local and undertaken to check the advance of the Germans in the direction of Amiens, a town whose retention is of great importance to the Allies. Or it may turn out to be part of the big counter offensive which is certain to follow upon the German drive as soon as the Allied generals feel that the moment for a retort upon the enemy has arrived. The news of the next twenty-four hours will show whether the British are striking their main blow in reply or not.

The dispatch showing the recapture of Morlancourt indicated that the apex of the German wedge was further west than was supposed. Morlancourt is on the road from Peronne to Amiens, four or five miles west of Bray sur Somme, which was mentioned in General Pershing's dispatch of last night as one of the places in the British line. The blow upon the apex of the wedge, if it is the beginning of the real counter movement, may be accompanied by a stroke upon one of the flanks. The understanding here is that the Allies have in reserve upon both flanks of the German wedge.

Press in Germany
Is Already Talking
Of Stronger Peace

AMSTERDAM, March 27.—The German newspapers are already counting the German gains.

"It is self-evident," says the Cologne "Volks Zeitung," "that after what is now happening we can no longer conclude peace on the terms which we were ready to accept a week ago. The enemy must be brought to a submissive spirit and forced to grant everything we need in the future, especially in colonies and raw materials."

Writing in the "Cologne Gazette" George Wogener says:

"The days of 1914 seem to have returned. The impression is as if the era of the migration of peoples had been revived. Streams of men, animals, wagons and war munitions of all kinds roll forward. From a high viewpoint, one sees them winding like endless red snakes over the valleys and the hills. When only German it all one is thrilled with the greatest admiration for the perfect calm and order."

Transports with slightly wounded often pass. They report that the British offered an extremely tenacious resistance and that the positions had for the most part been taken in hand-to-hand encounters, which occurred on all three days in the morning, mostly during a thick fog."

The Socialist newspaper "Vorwaerts" of Berlin, says the German people greet the news from the Western front with joy, merely because it justifies the hope that the events there will bring peace nearer. The newspaper protests against language used by the pan-German organ "Deutsche Zeitung," which said:

"Down with the Philistines who talk about conciliation! Down with the cowardly peace goers! The cry of vengeance and our will to war of hatred of England is ringing with renewed force throughout the empire. England!"

"The Vorwaerts" remarks: "This is the talk of a crazy firebrand warrior, and not of the German people. The latter consider the advance in the West as an advance toward peace. The only way to keep alive the will to war is the part of the Entente nations is to attempt to impose humiliating terms on them. We believe in the old proverb, 'Let us build golden bridges!'"

At the same time a surprise attack on a French advance post about two miles further west failed completely. Allied flights dropped bombs on enemy depots at Demer-lissar and camps southeast of Rosna.

The text of the statement reads: "The Eastern theatre, March 26.—Between Lakes Presba and Ochrida the enemy attacked a salient in our positions, but was completely repelled, leaving on the ground a great number of dead. A surprise attack at the same time against one of our advanced posts, three kilometers further west, failed completely. Allied aviators successfully bombed enemy depots at Demer-lissar and encampments southeast of Rosna."

On the night of the 25th our infantry occupied Essalt (about thirty-five miles northeast of Jerusalem). At 5 o'clock on the morning of the 26th our troops were approaching Amman on the Hedjaz railway.

"During the fighting of the 23d a few prisoners, both Turkish and German, were captured, as also were one gun and a quantity of ammunition. One enemy airplane was destroyed."

Japan to Open Argentine Bank
BUENOS AYRES, March 27.—The Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited, will open a branch here in April. It will take care of the rapidly growing Japanese commerce in Argentina.

Parisians Bid High at
Art Sale as Guns Roar

Splendid Prices Realized at
Auction of Edgard Degas
Collection

PARIS, March 27.—While Paris was being raided by German airplanes and bombarded by the German long-distance guns yesterday a sale was in progress of the collection of the late Edgard Degas, from which 1,600,000 francs (\$220,000) was realized. The results exceeded the expectations of experts, and the sale is regarded as the most important of its kind in Paris since the war began.

The works of Jean D. A. Ingres realized highest prices. Two portraits of Monsieur and Mme. Leblanc brought 255,000 francs (\$47,000). Portraits of Marquis de Pastoret and Monsieur de Norvins brought respectively 90,000 (\$18,000) and 70,000 francs (\$14,000).

A portrait of Baron de Schwitzer, by Eugene Delacroix, sold for 90,000 francs (\$18,000). One of Camille's by himself, brought 30,500 francs (\$6,100). Several paintings by Edouard Manet sold for from 25,000 (\$5,000) to 40,000 francs (\$8,000).

Italians Await
New Offensive
By Austrians

Foe Counts on Drive in
West to Discourage
Italy

[Staff Correspondence]

WASHINGTON, March 27.—The Italians are keenly expectant of an enemy offensive. The Austro-Germans apparently are counting upon the effects of the German drive against the British front to discourage the Italians, according to a diplomatic cable from Rome to-day. It says:

"The situation at the Italian front is becoming every day more tense. It appears that the Austro-Hungarian forces are counting upon the success of the German drive in France to discourage the Italians before attempting a new offensive."

New divisions are daily being brought to the Italian front from the Rumanian front. Artillery duels are growing in intensity all along the mountain section of the front in Val Lagarina, Gaudencia and Astico.

The Austrians have numerous new pieces of heavy artillery. Great movements of Austro-Hungarian troops are reported by Italian aviators in Val Suisa. Everything points toward a new effort on the part of the enemy forces to break through the mountainous zone of the Italian front toward the plain."

The announcement of the Germans that the Danub, Dutch and Swiss frontiers would be closed to all traffic and communication for an indefinite period was connected with this dispatch, because such action on the part of the enemy often precedes a new offensive.

Another dispatch says:

"The Italian press unanimously expresses the opinion that the British forces will head the Germans back and make them pay dearly for the attempt to disrupt the Western front. The people follow with deep anxiety the course of the battle, standing before the bulletins of the newspapers and commenting upon every statement made."

There is no reason to change the view already expressed with regard to the German drive. It was aimed at a part of the line which is hard to hold. To the south the French positions are clearly marked and the north German hammering has had the effect of driving the French from their places south of the Oise or the British from their strongholds on the northern end of the battlefield, which have hitherto resisted attacks. The reserves supposed to be stationed at these two critical points may be there to prevent the breach rather than in the preparation for a new offensive. But the general expectation here is for an Allied attack on the flanks of the Germans.

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